



SPOKES

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PENDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

April 7, 2010

Budget Banter

From the Desk of Jon Peterson, Superintendent



In a recent press release out of Salem, Gov. Kulongoski advised school districts to save their shares of the recent \$200 million appropriated by the Legislature for the 2009-2011 biennium. The Governor's advice is directly related to the estimated \$2-\$2.5 billion shortfall in the state budget for the 2011-2013 biennium.

Basically, the Governor is advising school districts to save now and position themselves for the next rainy day. In the

Pendleton School District, our share of this \$200 million is approximately \$1 million for the 2010-2011 school year. Although we appreciate the Governor's attempt to warn us of potential further reductions in state support to schools, the PSD will certainly find it difficult to add another \$1 million to our projected \$500,000- \$700,000 shortfall for 2010-2011.

Our priority for the 2010-2011 school year is to offer our students what they deserve – 173 instructional days. In order to achieve this goal, we simply cannot afford to save, as the Governor suggests we should, our share of the \$200 million our legislators have appropriated. We will certainly take a conservative approach to the 2010-2011 budgeting process as we remain focused on providing our students with the education our community expects.

Local Option Levy

The Pendleton School District Board of Directors voted unanimously to seek voter approval for a renewal of a 5-year local option levy to support our schools, maintain educational programs and staffing, and offset state school funding. This local option levy will appear on the May 18, 2010, election ballot.

This levy renewal would raise approximately \$340,000 each year for five years for the District if the measure is approved. The District would also receive approximately \$170,000 per year for five years in equalization payments from the state of Oregon. The levy would expire in 2015. The existing Local Option Levy, which expires in June 2010, would continue to support a comprehensive program for all students across the District.

If approved by voters, the maximum tax rate would be \$0.40 per \$1,000 assessed property value. This would be a renewal of the tax in place since 2000. Tax rates would not increase. Each property could pay a different amount, depending on the difference between its assessed value and the real market value. Changes in the real market value and/or assessed value of the property could affect the amount of the taxes.

Details about the levy can be found on the District web site, www.pendleton.k12.or.us/local-option-tax.



PHS's dance team, Rhythmic Mode, won its third straight OSAA State Dance & Drill Team championship in March. Way to go!

HOT TOPICS:

Drug dog visits PHS

On March 18, and again on April 1, the Pendleton Police Department visited Pendleton High School with its professionally-trained drug detection dog. These visits are a result of a suspected increase in drug activity in our community and in our schools.

Although the dog did “hit” on a few lockers and vehicles, no drugs were found and no arrests were made. The PPD drug detection dog will become a more regular visitor to PHS and at Sunridge Middle School in the future. We clearly understand the sensitivity of this issue. At the same time we are committed to ensuring that our schools are drug-free and safe for all students and staff.

Professional Learning Communities

The Pendleton School District is fully committed to engaging teachers and administrators to a practice known as “Professional Learning Communities” (or PLCs). In a nutshell, the PLC practice involves much more teacher collaboration around the practice of teaching and its impact on student learning.

On April 2, during our day-long in-service, a majority of PSD teachers participated in a workshop conducted by nationally-recognized PLC expert Janel Keating. We will also send several teachers and administrators to two-day PLC workshops in Portland and Pasco in May. The Keating workshop in April was free of charge thanks to a grant through the Umatilla-Morrow ESD. The May workshops are paid for through Title IIA funding, which is focused on best practices and professional development for teachers.



Mark Your Calendar

April 13 & 15 Elementary School Spring Conferences

April 16 No School

April 29 Kindergarten Round-up

May 10 School Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., District Office

May 18 Budget Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., District Office

May 20 Key Communicator Meeting, 7:30 a.m., District Office

May 28 No School

May 31 Memorial Day, No School

Enrollment Update

School	2008-2009	2009-2010
PHS	927	904
Sunridge	726	737
Lincoln	181	170
West Hills	166	183
McKay	366	346
Sherwood	406	436
Washington	384	364

June 3 Senior Farewell Assembly

June 3 Baccalaureate, 8 p.m., Vert Auditorium

June 5 PHS Graduation, 1 p.m., Pendleton Convention Center

June 7 Last Day of School for p.m. Kindergarten

June 8 Last Day of School for a.m. Kindergarten, grades 1-11, 2-hour early release